

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*[Anderson, South Carolina]*

HEARING # 10-11091

MARCH 8, 2010

6:00 P.M.

DOCKET NO. 2009-479-WS:

UNITED UTILITY COMPANIES, INC. - Application for Adjustment of Rates and Charges, and Modification to Certain Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Water and Sewer Services

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY  
AND PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME 3

HEARING BEFORE: Elizabeth B. 'Lib' FLEMING, *CHAIRMAN*, John E. "Butch" HOWARD, *VICE CHAIRMAN*; and COMMISSIONERS David A. WRIGHT, G. O'Neal HAMILTON, Swain E. WHITFIELD, and Randy MITCHELL.

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: Josh Minges, Esq.

STAFF: Jocelyn G. Boyd, Interim Chief Clerk/Administrator; James Spearman, Ph.D., Executive Assistant to Commissioners; Phil Riley and William O. Richardson, Advisory Staff; Patty Sands, Executive Staff; and Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, Court Reporter.

APPEARANCES:

*JOHN M.S. HOEFER, ESQUIRE*, representing UNITED UTILITY COMPANIES, INC., APPLICANT

*WILLIAM H. JORDAN, ESQUIRE*, representing NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY, INTERVENOR

*NANETTE S. EDWARDS, ESQUIRE*, representing THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

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***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA***

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P R O C E E D I N G S

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Good evening, everyone.

We'll now call this hearing to order. And we are delighted to have you here tonight. This is a lovely facility, and so it's a treat for us to be in Anderson and to hear what you have to say tonight.

And Representative Bowen, we appreciate your being here, and look forward to hearing from you in a few minutes, as well. And we are having this hearing tonight as a result of a request from Representative Bowen.

At this time, I want to introduce the Commissioners up here. I am Lib Fleming and I Chair the Commission. And to my left is Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton, Commissioner David Wright, and Commissioner Butch Howard, who is Vice Chair of the Commission. And to my right is Commissioner Swain Whitfield and Commissioner Randy Mitchell.

And this is Attorney Ran- -- I started to say another -- this is Attorney Josh Minges. And I even have it written down here. And he will at this time read the docket.

**MR. MINGES:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. Good

1 evening, folks. This proceeding before the Public  
2 Service Commission in Docket No. 2009-479-WS  
3 concerns the application of United Utility  
4 Companies, Incorporated, for a rate increase.

5 A public hearing has been scheduled in this  
6 matter at 6 p.m. on March 8, 2010, at the Anderson  
7 County Council Chambers in Anderson, South  
8 Carolina.

9 Now, if I could get the parties to introduce  
10 themselves, I'll start with Mr. Hoefer.

11 **MR. HOEFER:** Madam Chairman and members of the  
12 Commission, I am John Hoefer. I'm with the firm of  
13 Willoughby & Hoefer, in Columbia. We represent the  
14 Applicant, United Utility Companies, Incorporated.  
15 With me at tonight's meeting are the regional  
16 director of United Utility Companies, Mr. Bruce  
17 Haas; a customer care representative, Annette  
18 Bailey; and one of the system operators, Mr. Mark  
19 Johnson. Also Area Manager Larry Chitwood, who has  
20 attended the first two hearings in this proceeding,  
21 will be joining us, and all of them will be  
22 available to answer any questions that the  
23 customers or others may have after the hearing.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

25 **MR. JORDAN:** Good evening. I'm Will Jordan

1 from the firm Smith Moore Leatherwood, and we are  
2 representing North Greenville University, one of  
3 the Intervenor in this action.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

5 **MS. EDWARDS:** Good evening. My name is  
6 Nanette Edwards, and I'm an attorney with the South  
7 Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff. And to my  
8 immediate right is Mr. Willie Morgan, program  
9 manager for our Water and Wastewater Department,  
10 and we will also be available, should any of the  
11 customers have any questions.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

13 **MR. MINGES:** And as Commissioner Fleming  
14 mentioned, Representative Bowen is present in the  
15 audience here. Mr. Bowen, at this time, if you  
16 have any comments, we would welcome them.

17 **REP. BOWEN:** Is this microphone on? We've had  
18 a lot of people here in Anderson County that have  
19 been concerned about their the water rates. In  
20 fact, I met with County Council this morning. We  
21 were running a petition, and we've got over 200  
22 signatures to get special-purpose district lines  
23 moved. Now, this is another issue where we have a  
24 for-profit water company, and these people -- I  
25 know that there are times when you have rate

1 increases, but during these trying economic times I  
2 feel like that y'all should give very special  
3 consideration when we have a lot of retired people.  
4 This particular group -- I think there are 16 on  
5 one street, that this water issue pertains to, and  
6 their issues are very important to me, and very  
7 near and dear to me, too, because I work so closely  
8 with water issues in my area. And I felt like  
9 while it was -- maybe -- you may not feel like it  
10 was a burden for y'all to come up here; I felt like  
11 they deserve the right to be heard on the issues  
12 that they have with regard to water.

13 Now, in my district, during the last election,  
14 people lost 40 to 60 percent of their life savings,  
15 and what they have left they maybe get -- where  
16 they were getting 10, 20 percent, now they're  
17 getting 1 or 2 percent. So they have been  
18 adversely impacted by this recession that we find  
19 ourselves in the midst of.

20 So I'm asking y'all to be compassionate with  
21 how y'all administer water rates to these people,  
22 because once these rates have been increased it's  
23 almost impossible to have them decreased in a for-  
24 profit company such as this.

25 And that's pretty well my stance. We have --

1 I think one person here is going to be the  
2 spokesman for this small neighborhood, and I do  
3 certainly appreciate y'all coming to hear these  
4 people, but I think they should be heard. Thank  
5 you, very much.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We agree with you and look  
7 forward to hearing from them. Thank you.

8 **MR. MINGES:** Thank you, Representative Bowen.  
9 Now, in a moment, I'll be calling the names of  
10 those of you who signed up to speak to come forward  
11 and be sworn in. Make sure you give your name and  
12 address and then proceed with your testimony. And  
13 remember to speak into the microphone for the court  
14 reporter, because what you say will become a part  
15 of the record of the case. And after you're done,  
16 please remain at the stand for any questions that  
17 the parties or the Commissioners might have.

18 I'd like to remind everyone that this is your  
19 time to be heard on the rate case, the proposed  
20 rate case, but the Commissioners will not be taking  
21 any questions. United Utility and, as Ms. Nanette  
22 Edwards mentioned, the Office of Regulatory Staff  
23 will be available after the hearing for any  
24 questions that you might have.

25 And lastly, I'd like to note that another

1 public hearing is scheduled in Gaffney on March  
2 15th, and the final hearing will be held in  
3 Columbia at the Commission's hearing room on March  
4 23rd. And it's the Commission's policy, unless  
5 directed otherwise, that you only testify at one of  
6 these hearings.

7 With that, I'll call the first witness. Jeff  
8 Bennett, will you please come forward and be sworn  
9 in?

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Hoefer.

11 **MR. MINGES:** Oh, I'm sorry.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Hoefer.

13 **MR. HOEFER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. While  
14 the witness is coming forward, I just wanted to  
15 state the same objection that's been stated for the  
16 record at prior night hearings. The Applicant  
17 would like to state its objection to testimony  
18 regarding quality of service not substantiated by  
19 data or not made based upon scientific criteria.  
20 The bases for this objection are Patton versus PSC,  
21 reported at 312 S.E.2d 257; Court of Common Pleas'  
22 order in Tega Cay Water Service, Inc., versus PSC,  
23 Civil Action No. 97-CP-40-0923; and Commission  
24 Order No. 1990-191, Docket No. 96-137-WS.

25 The Applicant would request that this



1 objection be deemed a continuing objection, such  
2 that there would not be a need for repeated  
3 objections each time objectionable testimony is  
4 given, and cites in support of that request the  
5 case of State v. Douglas, reported at 626 S.E.2d  
6 59.

7 This continuing objection would also apply to  
8 documents and testimony elicited from customers  
9 under examination by the parties or the Commission.  
10 And I would ask that the Commission defer ruling on  
11 the continuing objection until a final order is  
12 issued in this case.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

14 **MS. EDWARDS:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. If I  
15 may respond to --

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Is your microphone on?

17 **MS. EDWARDS:** I thought it was, but evidently  
18 not [indicating]. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I  
19 would like to briefly respond. It is ORS's  
20 position that while we don't oppose the continuing  
21 objection process presented by the company, we do  
22 believe that the testimony the company is objecting  
23 to is admissible for the purposes of this night  
24 hearing. We would like to reserve our right to  
25 respond in writing to the company's bases for its

1 continuing objection. We would ask that, within a  
2 reasonable time after this night hearing and after  
3 the company has had an opportunity to review the  
4 hearing transcript, that the company would set  
5 forth the specific portions of the testimony to  
6 which they object, the basis for that objection,  
7 and the name of the person who provided that  
8 testimony. This would allow those who took time to  
9 testify here tonight to know what portion of their  
10 testimony is being objected to. And thank you,  
11 very much, for consideration of our responses.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

13 **MR. JORDAN:** Thank you, Madam Commissioner.  
14 We would just renew our response made at the other  
15 hearings, and just state that we believe that a  
16 public hearing like this is an appropriate place  
17 for the customers to state their involvement with  
18 the company and their interaction with the company,  
19 and would ask the Commission consider that. Thank  
20 you.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you. We'll  
22 take it under advisement, the issues, and rule in  
23 the final order.

24 **MR. HOEFER:** Thank you, Madam chair.

25 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

1 THEREUPON came,

2 J E F F B E N N E T T ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: My name is Jeff Bennett, and I live  
6 at 33 Pinerock Drive, in Travelers Rest, South  
7 Carolina. I live in a subdivision, Cherokee  
8 Valley, right behind North Greenville University.  
9 And we are -- or, I am serviced, and North  
10 Greenville University is serviced by United  
11 Utility, as far as our sewer service goes. And I  
12 think it's important to note that United Utility,  
13 for sewer service, is the only option that we have.

14 In 2006, in the summer of, United Utility made  
15 a request for a rate increase, and I don't have  
16 that number exactly but I believe it was in excess  
17 of about 30 percent. I visited the attorneys with  
18 North Greenville University, and went -- and I was  
19 able to sit in those negotiations, and after our  
20 meeting, about a week later, I got a call from Dr.  
21 Jimmy Epting telling me that a resolution had been  
22 made with United Utility and that the rate increase  
23 was going to drop from in excess of 30 percent to  
24 down around 3 percent, and I was very satisfied  
25 with that outcome.

1           Now, the rate increase that we're talking  
2           about today is approximately 53 percent. Now, I am  
3           an independent businessman, and I understand  
4           profits and I understand profits have been  
5           squeezed, and I understand how costs have been  
6           going up, but if I have a supplier that comes to me  
7           and says, "I'm increasing the cost of your  
8           materials by 53 percent," I'm going to go look for  
9           another supplier. The problem I've got here is, I  
10          don't have another supplier. United Utility has a  
11          monopoly on our area, as far as sewer service goes.  
12          And I have no problem with a rate increase, but 53  
13          percent is an excess.

14          And the one thing that really concerns me in  
15          all this is, in my discussions with Dr. Jimmy  
16          Epting, president of North Greenville University,  
17          United Utility was given the wastewater treatment  
18          plant that they are using to run our sewer service.  
19          So they had no startup costs, as far as the plant  
20          goes. And so my question is, what does this 53  
21          percent encompass? Somebody needs to explain that  
22          to me, because I really can't understand why the  
23          excess of that type of increase. If we're -- if I  
24          need \$1 million to run my business, I don't think  
25          I'm going to accept \$30,000 and walk away. And

1           that's basically what we're talking about when we  
2           talk about 100 percent increase and then drop it  
3           down to 3 percent.

4           So that is my concern and, being that United  
5           Utility is a monopoly in our area, I understand  
6           that you folks are here to protect us, and I ask  
7           that you do that. And I appreciate your time.  
8           Thank you, very much.

9           **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. If you'll wait  
10          to see if there any questions, please. Mr. Hoefer?

11          **MR. HOEFER:** Thank you, Madam Chairman.

12                               **CROSS EXAMINATION**

13   **BY MR. HOEFER:**

14   **Q**   Mr. Bennett, how long have you lived at 33 Pinerock  
15          Drive?

16   **A**   Since September 2002.

17   **Q**   Since 2002, and where are you employed?

18   **A**   I have my own company; it's Focus Sales & Marketing  
19          Group, in Tiger Hill, South Carolina.

20   **Q**   Focus Sales & --

21   **A**   Focus, F-o-c-u-s.

22   **Q**   Uh-huh. And what does Focus Sales & Marketing Group do?

23   **A**   We sell industrial fabrics.

24   **Q**   Could you tell me what kind of industrial fabrics?

25   **A**   We sell spun-bond fabrics, polypropylene/polyester,

1 needle-punch polypropylene and polyester, into the  
2 carpet market, composites, things of that nature.

3 **Q** How did you come to be included in a discussion with Dr.  
4 Epting and his attorneys about the last rate case?

5 **A** When the last rate increase came through, one of my  
6 neighbors came to me and said that he was going to North  
7 Greenville to meet with Dr. Epting, and that Dr. Epting  
8 had asked if anybody else in the neighborhood would be  
9 willing to come and sit in, and I told him, yes, I  
10 would.

11 **Q** Okay. And who was at the meeting besides you and your  
12 neighbor and Dr. Epting?

13 **A** It was Dr. Epting, and the gentleman representing North  
14 Greenville -- Joe is one of the gentlemen at North  
15 Greenville University. I can't remember his name. I'm  
16 sorry.

17 **Q** You mentioned earlier that there were some attorneys  
18 present. Do you remember who they were?

19 **A** I don't, sir.

20 **Q** Okay.

21 **A** Oh, wait, wait. Wait. I do, too. Duke? A gentleman  
22 -- Mr. Duke?

23 **Q** Was it Duke McCall?

24 **A** I don't have a last name.

25 **Q** Okay.

1 A Jimmy Epting, me -- and I just got first names -- Buddy  
2 and Joe. Sorry.

3 Q Buddy works at North Greenville?

4 A No, sir, he's my neighbor.

5 Q What's Buddy's last name?

6 A I'm a bad neighbor. I'm afraid I can't tell you.

7 Q Okay. Is it still called Cherokee Valley?

8 A It is, sir.

9 Q Okay. Do you have any connection with North Greenville  
10 College other than that your property adjoins?

11 A I was a volunteer football coach in 2003, but since  
12 then, no.

13 Q Are you a graduate of the University?

14 A No, sir, I'm a graduate of the University of South  
15 Carolina.

16 Q Thank you, very much.

17 A Thank you.

18 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

19 **BY MR. JORDAN:**

20 Q Mr. Bennett, I just have one or two questions. You said  
21 that, in Cherokee Valley, the sewer service is provided  
22 by United Utility; is that correct.

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Okay. Is the water service also provided by that  
25 company?

1     **A**     No, sir, it's not. It's provided by Blue Ridge Rural  
2     Water System.

3                 **MR. JORDAN:** Okay. No further questions.  
4     Thank you.

5                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

6                 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

7                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?  
8                         [No response]

9                                 **EXAMINATION**

10    **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

11    **Q**     All right. I'd like to ask about the service -- quality  
12     of service you've had.

13    **A**     I put a lot of thought into that, and, it works. That's  
14     about all I can tell you.

15    **Q**     All right, very good. And your billing system?

16    **A**     We pay a flat rate, and right now I think it's a little  
17     over \$48, \$48.24, something like that.

18    **Q**     A month? You get a bill --

19    **A**     Per month, yes, ma'am.

20    **Q**     All right.

21    **A**     And, you know, that's one thing, as far as personally  
22     I'm concerned, I would be willing to pay on a usage rate  
23     if that would help. That's it.

24                 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Thank you. If there  
25     are no more questions, you may step down.



1                   **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much.

2                   [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

3                   **MR. MINGES:** I'd like to call Darrel M. Rogers  
4 to come forward and be sworn in.

5                   [Witness sworn/affirmed]

6 THEREUPON came,

7                   **D A R R E L   M .   R O G E R S ,**

8 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
9 follows:.

10                  **WITNESS:** Darrel Rogers. I live at 2228  
11 Surfside Drive in Anderson, 29625.

12                  Last year when we went through this, we had  
13 more people, more time to put together a good case.  
14 I found out about this hearing on Thursday. So I  
15 really don't have any of the things I would have  
16 had, to be prepared.

17                  But I do know that if I move my house across  
18 Centerville Road to another neighborhood where it's  
19 West Anderson Water Company, I would be paying \$30  
20 every two months. As it stands, I pay \$50 every  
21 month. That's 240 percent more than my neighbors.  
22 And now they want to almost double that? I'll  
23 probably be paying very close to what I pay for  
24 electric, for water, if this rate increase goes  
25 through. And that's all I have to say.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Hoefer.

2                   **CROSS EXAMINATION**

3 **BY MR. HOEFER:**

4 **Q** Mr. Rogers, aren't you a customer of Utilities Services  
5 of South Carolina?

6 **A** That's what comes in my bill, yeah.

7 **Q** Yes. And you're aware this is not a Utilities Services  
8 of South Carolina rate case, but a United Utility  
9 Companies rate case?

10 **A** It said that we were part of that, in what I read in the  
11 newspaper.

12 **Q** Well, if this case didn't involve the sewer service you  
13 receive from Utilities Services of South Carolina, would  
14 you be here tonight?

15 **A** I thought it did involve us.

16                   **MR. HOEFER:** Okay. Thank you

17                   **MR. JORDAN:** No questions.

18                   **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

19                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners,  
20 are there any questions?

21                   [No response]

22                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

23                   [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24                   **MR. MINGES:** And A.B. Brown, would you please  
25 come forward?

1                   **MR. BROWN:** Yes, sir.

2                               [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4                   **A R T H U R   B .   B R O W N ,   J R . ,**  
5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as  
6 follows:

7                   **WITNESS:** My name is Arthur Brown, Jr. I live  
8 at 204 Christopher Drive, about seven miles south  
9 down US 29, and I'm on the sewer system with United  
10 Utility.

11                   And I've been at this address for about 30  
12 years or better, and every time they want to go up,  
13 they always ask for some exuberant amount, and you  
14 people maybe give them half of it, or a certain  
15 percentage of it. Somewhere along the line, this  
16 has got to stop. You know, if they can show  
17 evidence that they need a 50 or a 53 percent  
18 increase, then they should get it. But if they  
19 can't show it, they shouldn't get anything. You  
20 know? Because they were lying. Thank you.

21                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Brown, if you could  
22 just wait to see if there are questions.

23                   **WITNESS:** Oh, okay.

24                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Hoefer?

25 <

**CROSS EXAMINATION**

**BY MR. HOEFER:**

**Q** Mr. Brown, could you tell me again your address?

**A** 204 Christopher Drive.

**Q** Is that in a subdivision, sir?

**A** Yes, Shambert Forest.

**MR. HOEFER:** Shambert Forest? Okay. Thank  
you, very much. I appreciate it.

**CROSS EXAMINATION**

**BY MR. JORDAN:**

**Q** Mr. Brown, what do you do for a living?

**A** I'm retired.

**Q** Okay. How long have you been retired?

**A** Oh, about five years. I retired from Owens Corning  
Fiberglass.

**Q** Could you say that again? I'm sorry.

**A** Owens Corning Fiberglass.

**Q** Okay, and what did you do there?

**A** I was a welder.

**MR. JORDAN:** Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute, Mr. Brown.  
Got to go around.

**WITNESS:** Oh, okay.

**MS. EDWARDS:** I have no questions. Thank you.

**WITNESS:** Oh, okay.

1                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners.  
2                   Commissioner Mitchell.

3                   **EXAMINATION**

4                   **BY COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:**

5                   **Q**     How you doing, Mr. Brown? Glad to have you out tonight.

6                   **A**     Thank you, sir.

7                   **Q**     Could you tell me about -- is your service -- once  
8                   again, is your service adequate? Or how would you  
9                   describe your service over the years?

10                  **A**     It goes and comes. We had sewage running in our yard  
11                  for almost six months one time, and all the people could  
12                  do was come down and put a little light lime on it. Our  
13                  yard really looked good, you know. It was on a line  
14                  that they really didn't know they had, and it took us  
15                  around six months for them to get the man that worked  
16                  there -- he had retired -- and he told them that the  
17                  line belonged to them and, you know, they finally came  
18                  in there and fixed it.

19                  But you know, these people -- they hire the highest  
20                  priced people around to do their maintenance work. Like  
21                  Roto-Rooter is the highest priced people around, and I  
22                  just live right above the pond and, you know, a guy  
23                  comes in there a couple days, a couple hours three days  
24                  a week, you know. I mean, I'd like to really know what  
25                  cost increase they have, you know, incurred.

1 Q All right. Have you had any difficulties since -- I  
2 believe you stated that was six years ago, was that  
3 right, when you had --

4 A Something like that.

5 Q -- the sewage in the yard?

6 A Yeah, I believe I was still working.

7 Q And you mentioned Roto-Rooter was on the scene. And was  
8 that at an expense of the company, or was that --

9 A That was at the expense of United Utility. They didn't  
10 clean up the mess that run in my yard. They just hire  
11 them on occasions to unstop the drain lines, the sewer  
12 lines.

13 Q So you really -- you haven't had any problems since  
14 then?

15 A Oh, no.

16 Q It's worked pretty good?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q What about -- well, any other problems in your community  
19 there, that you're aware of, or has service been pretty  
20 well over years?

21 A Not that I know of. Service has been, you know, fairly  
22 good for at least 30 years that I know about. Of  
23 course, I think this thing has changed hands a few  
24 times, or it did when I first moved over there.

25 Q Was the present company now in charge six years ago, or

1           were you aware?

2   **A**     Yes.

3                   **COMMISSIONER MITCHELL:** Thank you. That's all  
4           I have, Madam Chairman.

5                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there other questions?

6                               [No response]

7                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

8                   **WITNESS:** Thank you.

9                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** You may step down.

10                               [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

11                   **MR. MINGES:** Madam Chairman, Mr. Brown is the  
12           last person who signed up to speak.

13                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, is there anyone else  
14           who would like to speak to this issue? I know  
15           there are several other people here this evening.

16                               [No response]

17                   **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, we appreciate your  
18           coming out tonight. This information will be put  
19           into the record, and if you want to follow the case  
20           -- I know there were some questions -- you can go  
21           on our Docket Management System, and under 2009-  
22           479-WS, and you can follow the case there.

23                               Thank you, so much, for being here, and this  
24           hearing -- right, okay. And there will be a  
25           hearing in Columbia -- what is the date of that?

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**MR. MINGES:** That's March 23rd.

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- March 23rd, and we certainly would welcome any of you who would like to come. If you testified tonight, you would not be able to testify at the hearing, but we would certainly welcome your being there.

**MR. MINGES:** Just to give you the address, that's going to be in the Commission's hearing room at 101 Executive Center Drive, in Columbia, South Carolina. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. This hearing is now adjourned.

[WHEREUPON, at 6:30 p.m., the hearing in the above-entitled matter was adjourned, to reconvene at 6:00 p.m., March 15, 2010, in Gaffney, South Carolina.]

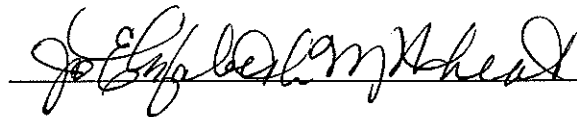
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C E R T I F I C A T E

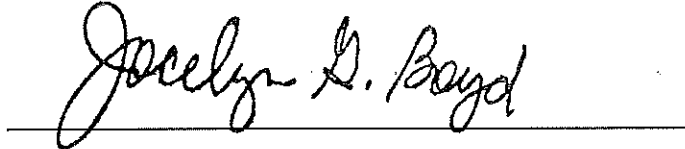
I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in an evening public hearing held in the above-captioned matter before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this the 16th day of March, 2010.



Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC

ATTEST:



Jocelyn G. Boyd

INTERIM CHIEF CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR